



COUNCIL FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN ADVANCEMENT

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February 1, 2005

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED & INSPECTED

FEB 17 2005

FCC - MAILROOM

RE: Support Comments for Petition for Waiver, CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Secretary Dortch:

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) offers our strong support for Sandwich Isles Communications, Inc's (SIC) filing of the petition for waiver identified as CC Docket No. 96-45. SIC's services to the Hawaiian homeland (HHL) communities, much of it unprecedented, fills an important void that helps lay the necessary telecommunications infrastructure needed to spur community development in these areas.

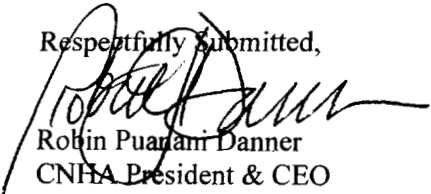
CNHA is a national, member-based nonprofit organization dedicated to community development focused primarily on low to moderate income Native communities. Our 130 member roster consists of a variety of community-based agencies working in the areas of healthcare, affordable housing, economic development, education and cultural preservation. A positive ruling in regards to SIC will have a direct impact on our members and clients working on community development not only inside the Hawaiian homeland areas, but across the state.

Many of our Hawaiian homeland communities are still without services like high speed Internet connectivity, a basic communication need in a modern world and something with far reaching impacts (access to virtual libraries, telemedicine, educational programming, and the list goes on). SIC has been and continues to be a source of great hope and a catalyst that will open opportunities not previously available to the geographically diverse and remote communities they are entirely focused on. The commitment of SIC to the telecommunications infrastructure of Hawaiian homelands must be supported, just as the support of building basic infrastructure in the Midwest over 50 years ago was an absolute necessity.

In today's telecommunication age, without question, the infrastructure being developed is a life-line long overdue, and one that will invest in the future of our entire island state. The investment has clear returns, and the lack of it has predictable consequences. We request your positive review and support in bringing telecommunication parity to our Hawaiian homeland communities and in doing so, impacting the well-being of the state of Hawaii.

Mahalo for your consideration. If we can provide any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at 808.521.5011.

Respectfully Submitted,


Robin Puanani Danner
CNHA President & CEO

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